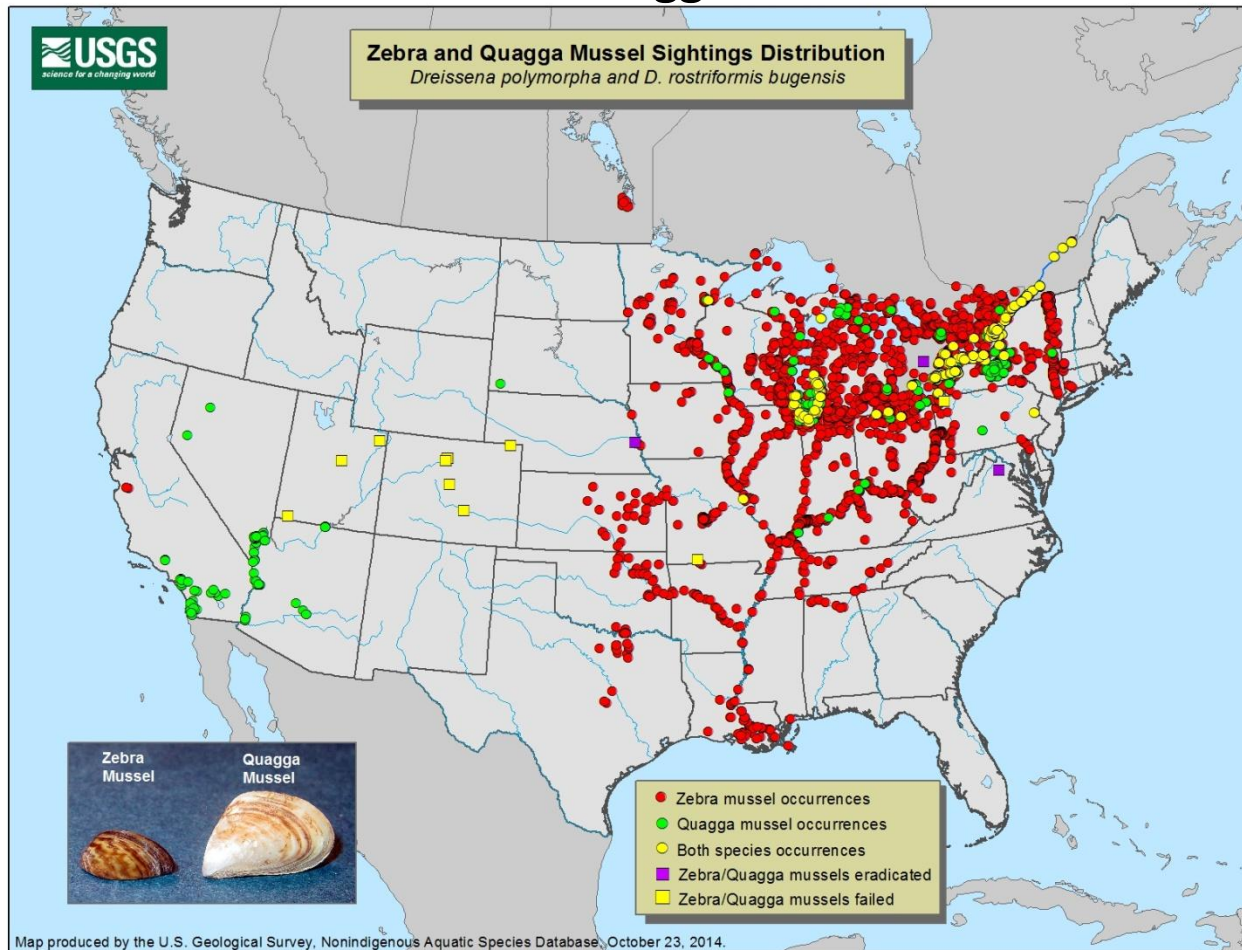


Zebra and Quagga Mussels



The zebra and quagga mussel are closely related species in the genus *Dreissena*. They originated from the Black and Caspian seas in Eurasia. They were introduced into the Great Lakes region of the U.S. in the 1980's and have since spread rapidly throughout the eastern U.S. In 2007, quagga mussels were found in Lake Mead, NV and have since spread to several western waters. Since 2010, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has sampled yearly for the larval form of the mussel. To date, neither species have been detected in any Wyoming waters. These mussels carry with them devastating impacts. They are very prolific and can completely infiltrate waters very rapidly. They remove nutrients from water, clog pipes and waterways, damage boats, and out-compete native mussels.

Zebra and quagga mussels are transported in water on boats and other equipment as microscopic larvae or they attach to the hull, motor, or other hard surface of a boat as juveniles or adults. If you enter the state of Wyoming with your watercraft between March and November, you are required to have your watercraft inspected before launching on Wyoming waters. If your watercraft was last used in mussel-infested waters, it is required that you have your watercraft inspected before launching regardless of the time of year.

We encourage everyone to help us stop the spread of harmful invasive species like the zebra and quagga mussel by following three simple steps:

- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from your gear and equipment. This includes all types of watercraft, waders, boots, clothing, buckets – anything that comes into contact with the water.
- ✓ **CLEAN** all equipment and gear of plants, mud and debris. *Never move a plant or animal from one location to another.*
- ✓ **DRY** everything thoroughly. In Wyoming we recommend drying for 5 days in the summer, 18 days in the spring or fall, or 3 days at freezing temperatures.